

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 10545 01 OF 02 241802Z
ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /073 W
-----078017 241831Z /43
R 241706Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5526

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 10545

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, UK
SUBJECT: BRITISH HUMAN RIGHTS LIST

REFERENCE: (A) LONDON 2270; (B) STATE 147239

1. WE REPORTED IN REFTEL (A) THAT THE FCO HAD BEEN DEVELOPING A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY SURVEY OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTIONS/VIOLATIONS. THEN FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND REFERRED TO THE SURVEY IN PUBLIC IN FEBRUARY.

2. WE UNDERSTAND MINISTER OF STATE EVAN LUARD BRIEFED PAT DERVAN IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK ON THE BRITISH SURVEY.

3. THE SOURCE OF THE REUTERS ARTICLE WAS A BACKGROUND SESSION LUARD HELD YESTERDAY WITH A NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS THE BEST REPORT OF THE BRIEFING WE CAN FIND IS IN THE JUNE 24 FINANCIAL TIMES, QUOTED BELOW. THE FOREIGN OFFICE TELLS US THAT HUMAN RIGHTS SURVEY IS FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY AND THAT THE FCO HAS BEEN ENJOINED FROM RELEASING COPIES TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS IN WHITEHALL OR TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

4. FINANCIAL TIMES ARTICLE BY MALCOLM RUTHERFORD:
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 10545 01 OF 02 241802Z

QUOTE: THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE HAS COMPLETED A WORLD TABLE ASSESSING THE PERFORMANCE OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS. IT IS NOW CONSIDERING HOW THE ASSESSMENT MIGHT BEST BE USED TO FOSTER THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAUSE. ALTHOUGH THE TABLE HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT BRITAIN COMES CLOSE TO THE TOP OF THE LEAGUE. ONLY ITS USE OF TORTURE IN NORTHERN IRELAND--

NOW OFFICIALLY ABANDONED--PREVENTS IT FROM TAKING AN
EVEN HIGHER PLACE.

SEVEN CRITERIA, ALL OF THEM OF EQUAL WEIGHT, WERE
USED FOR THE PLACINGS. THESE WERE: THE INCIDENCE OF
IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT TRIAL; THE USE OF TORTURE; THE
PRACTICE OF SLAVERY; THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY;
THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION; THE
FREEDOM TO JOIN TRADE UNIONS; AND THE FREEDOM TO LEAVE
THE COUNTRY.

AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LEAGUE ARE SUCH COUNTRIES AS
CAMBODIA, THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, EQUATORIAL GUINEA
AND UGANDA. CHILE IS ALSO CLOSE TO THE BOTTOM.

AMONG THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WHICH COME RATHER HIGH
IN THE LEAGUE ARE BOTSWANA AND COSTA RICA.

THE SOVIET UNION AND SOME EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE
SAID TO BE WELL BELOW THE MIDDLE.

THE TABLE WAS COMPILED ON THE BASIS OF REPORTS BY
BRITISH EMBASSIES AND HIGH COMMISSIONS AND IS TO BE RE-
VISED ANNUALLY.

IT IS STRESSED IN LONDON THAT THE IDEA OF A MORE
SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE PRE-
DATES PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE EMPHASIS HE HAS GIVEN TO
HUMAN RIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. IT WAS EN-
DORSED BY MR. ANTHONY CROSLAND, THE LATE FOREIGN SEC-
RETARY, AND MUCH OF THE WORK HAS BEEN SUPERVISED BY
MR. EVAN LUARD, AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE AT THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LONDON 10545 01 OF 02 241802Z

FOREIGN OFFICE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 10545 02 OF 02 241759Z
ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /073 W

-----077973 241831Z /43

R 241706Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5527

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 10545

IT IS NOT YET CERTAIN, HOWEVER, HOW FAR THE
FOREIGN OFFICE WILL USE ITS TABLE AS A BASIS FOR ACTION:
FOR EXAMPLE, IN APPORTIONING BRITISH AID.
A TWO-DAY YHMINAR TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WILL OPEN
AT ST. ANTHONY'S COLLEGE, OXFORD, TODAY WITH MR. LUARD IN
THE CHAIR. IT WILL BE ATTENDED BY BRITISH OFFICIALS,
JURISTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS
SUCH AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE ANTI-SLAVERY
SOCIETY. IT WILL NOT BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
THE FOREIGN OFFICE VIEW AT PRESENT IS THAT THE
EXISTENCE OF THE LIST IS USEFUL IN ITSELF IN THAT
BRITAIN'S APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS ABROAD HAS BEEN SOME-
WHAT HAPHAZARD AND SPASMODIC. BUT WITH THE POSSIBLE EX-
CEPTION OF UGANDA, WHICH IS SOMETHING OF A SPECIAL CASE,
THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT YET THINKING OF APPLYING SANCTIONS
EVEN TO THE MOST BLATANT OFFENDERS.
THE SORT OF GRADED ACTION IT COULD GO THROUGH WOULD
START WITH PRIVATE THEN PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS, MOVE TO
SUPPORTING OR INITIATING ACTION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANI-
ZATIONS SUCH AS UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES, AND ONLY THEN
TO CONSIDERING CUTTING OFF UND OR AJXR SUPPLIES.
TRADE SANCTIONS WOULD BE RIGTV AT THE END OF THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 10545 02 OF 02 241759Z

LIFZ, AND THE GOVERNMENT IS ALUPRESENT OPPOSED TO THEM.
IT ALSO BELIEVES THAT SOME ACTION CAN BETTER BE TAKEN BY
PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS RATHER THAN GOVERNMENTS. END QUOTE

BREWSTER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES, SURVEYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON10545
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770227-0038
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770620/aaaaaren.tel
Line Count: 157
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 084f0477-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DHA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LONDON 2270, 77 STATE 147239
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2038663
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH HUMAN RIGHTS LIST
TAGS: SHUM, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/084f0477-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009